

For Immediate Release:
January 16, 2007

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Chairman Conyers Manages House Resolution
Honoring the Reverend Martin Luther King

Judiciary Committee Chairman John Conyers (D-MI) today managed House passage of House Resolution 61, authored by Rep. John Lewis (GA), honoring the profound impact that Dr. Martin Luther King has had upon our country.

“Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King today with a resolution was a great privilege for me as I hold him to be the greatest American,” said Conyers. “The Reverend realized that we could not match the hate and violence of our segregationist opponents. Instead, through nonviolence, we could turn away the wild and hysterical attitudes allayed against us. Martin Luther King preached nonviolence, which did not mean being passive or servile, but meant that we would not return hatred with hatred, or violence with violence.”

“On April 4th, 1967 at the Riverside Church, Dr. King told the audience his conscience left him no choice but to speak his mind about the Vietnam War. Speaking at Riverside about the urgency to oppose the war, Dr. King said:

‘If we do not act, we shall surely be dragged down the long, dark, and shameful corridors of time reserved for those who possess power without compassion, might without morality, and strength without sight.’

“What would Reverend King say to us today? I think he would urge us to find a way out of the war in Iraq.”

House Resolution 61, with 86 cosponsors, passed unanimously.

##110-JUD-011007b##